(b) the names of countries with which extradition treaty is proposed to be signed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister signed the extradition treaty with France on January 24, 2003 in Paris. The treaty will come into force after the exchange of instruments of ratification.

(b) Extradition treaties were signed with France and Poland in 2003. After negotiations at official level, the texts of Extradition Treaties have been finalised with Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kuwait and Philippines and may be signed during appropriate bilateral visits at the Ministerial level in the current year.

Golden Quadrilateral Project

*331. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project-main quadrilateral to link major cities like Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai-Kolkata, with high-speed roads, would be completed this year;

(b) by when the arteries linking the other major urban centres to this quadrilateral are expected so that the potential of this project could be exploited; and

(c) the budgetary allocation for these arterial roads, the time-frame for their completion, the agency which would be implementing this project and the monitoring mechanism for keeping track of the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Target for completion of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) is December, 2004. With the incentives provided for early completion, it is expected that all the contracts on GQ will be got completed by this date except the work on 136 kms. which is held up due to alignment problem/litigations.

(b) and (c) Recently in the budget, 4-laning of another 10,000 kms. of National Highway has been announced. It is too early to give any details of time schedule and budgetary allocation for this work.